

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority and reception of the certified copy of the foreign priority document that was submitted on 18 February 2004. Applicants also thank the Examiner for having returned an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 that was submitted on 18 February 2004.

Claims 1, 3 – 4 and 8 – 16 have been canceled without prejudice in accordance with the Restriction Requirement/Election of Species Requirement mailed on January 24, 2006. New claims 17 – 18 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 5 – 7 and 17 – 18 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,947,064 to Hahn *et al.* (hereafter: "Hahn") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,813 to DeLuca *et al.* (hereafter: "DeLuca"). Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite the novel embodiment disclosed, for example, on pg. 15 and illustrated, for example, in Fig. 5, of a display method adopted in a vehicle in which it is determined whether an object exists between the determined position of existence of the information conveyor and the vehicle such that the information conveyor is substantially hidden by the object and substantially invisible from the vehicle. The determined position of existence of the information conveyor is changed when the object is determined to exist to a position other than a location behind the object in advance of displaying.

Hahn discloses a method for displaying a perspective image (B) with one image element (4A to 4H) for at least one passenger of a motor vehicle, said image (B) representing the view of

the passenger. The image element (4A to 4H) is changed in at least one size depending on the forward travel way (F), on at least one operational parameter of the motor vehicle and/or on at least one parameter of an object (6) identified in the range of the travel way (F). However, Hahn fails to teach or suggest determining whether the object (6) exists between the position of existence of the image element (4A to 4H) and the vehicle such that the image element (4A to 4H) is substantially hidden by the object (6) and substantially invisible from the vehicle. Rather, Hahn merely discloses that an image element 4C changes in position depending upon the operating parameter of one's own vehicle. (See e.g., Col. 7, Lines 32 – 36).

The Examiner asserted that Figs. 3 and 4 of Hahn disclose changing the determined position of existence of the information conveyor when an object is between the determined position of the information conveyor and the vehicle to a position other than a location behind the object in advance of displaying.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Although Figs 3 and 4 show different positions of the image element 4C, the positions are different based upon the instantaneous speed of the vehicle, not based upon the position of the preceding vehicle. For example, regarding Fig. 4, the image element 4C indicates that the instantaneous speed of the vehicle is approximately 102 km/hr. (See Col. 9, Lines 53 – 54). The position of the image element 4C is not changed based upon the image element 4E of the object 6 (= the preceding vehicle) being between the image element 4C and the vehicle. Rather, Hahn discloses that the position of the image element 4E relative to the image element 4C represents the maintenance of the separation required for the instantaneous speed.

DeLuca disclose a virtual reality system. However, DeLuca also fails to teach or suggest determining whether an object exists between the position of existence of the image element and

the vehicle such that the image element is substantially hidden by the object and substantially invisible from the vehicle.

Therefore, because Hahn and DeLuca fail to disclose the limitations of claim 2, as amended, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 6 depends from claim 2. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 2.

Claims 5 – 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Hahn in view of DeLuca, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0183750 to Nagano *et al.* For the reason discussed below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

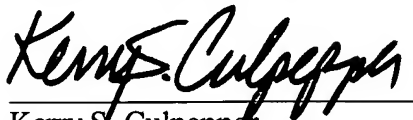
Claims 5 – 7 depend from claim 2. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 2.

New claims 17 – 18 are presented for examination. These claims recite features that further distinguish the present invention from the art of record. Support for new claim 17 may be found, for example, on pg. 14. Support for new claim 18 may be found, for example, on pg. 24. New claims 17 – 18 also depend from claim 2. Therefore, these claims should be in condition for allowance for at least the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 2.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerry S. Culpepper", written over a horizontal line.

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